

The Punta Gorda Herald

A. F. JORDAN Editor

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THURSDAY, OCT. 1, 1908.

Editor Goolsby, of the Wauchoke Advocate, has the sympathies of his many friends in the tragic death of his brother, Harvey, who was killed last week by a train in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Governor Broward intimates that he will give the people of Florida something of decided interest within a very short time. This will be in the nature of information on his work of selling and developing land in the Everglades. Some of the newspapers think that big deals are pending which will bring the State thousands of dollars.

Nearly sixty thousand pounds of Spanish mackerel, the largest receipts in the history of Pensacola, were brought to that city on Monday from East Pass, where the mackerel are now passing in immense schools. The boats, which at this season of the year engage only in mackerel fishing, had catches of from five to fourteen thousand pounds of the fine fish each. The mackerel, following their usual custom, are now passing from the west to the east, and in doing so go through what is known as East Pass, where they are being taken in immense quantities.

Our brilliant and admired brother of the Times-Union thinks that the population of Florida is too sparse to furnish men enough to man a battleship. Well, then, we can throw in a few women, and their presence and example would make the men aboard work or fight all the better. But, say, how many men are required to man a battleship? Surely, not over 1,500, and Jacksonville, Tampa and Pensacola could furnish that many and not miss them. All that would be necessary would be a little training.

Hon. J. C. B. Koonce published last week his valedictory as owner and editor of the Sumterville Times. There is a justifiable pathos in his farewell, but it suggests the idea that he is in failing health, which we hope is not the case. During the nine years he has edited it, the Times has been a clean newspaper and Mr. Koonce has no cause to feel ashamed of his journalistic record. We sincerely regret his departure from our ranks, but wish him prosperity and happiness for the balance of his life. He has sold the Times to Syd N. Graham, a young gentleman of high character, who is blessed with every qualification necessary to the successful conduct of the paper. He is a brother of our Col. Walter Graham, of Arcadia.

Mr. Griffith Explains.

The following communication explains the cause for the suspension of the Tropical Breeze, of Fort Myers, and corrects errors which appeared in THE HERALD's report:

FRIEND JORDAN:—I have just read your editorial comment on the suspension of the Tropical Breeze and the Tallahassee Sun. If I did not believe that your references to me were your honest convictions, but none the less partly erroneous, I would feel deeply wounded at a part of your remarks. However, I have, and always have had, great faith in the honesty of the convictions expressed by you in THE HERALD, although I have often disagreed with you with equal sincerity. Our different convictions has never lessened my admiration of you personally. I regarded you as a man of fairness according to your convictions. I believe you man enough to defend your position always openly, and I know you to be capable of defending your convictions well.

But I do feel it necessary to both you and I, to correct some of the mistaken ideas expressed by yourself in the above-mentioned editorial.

In the first place, you stated that my suspension was caused by the lack of patronage. I plainly stated that the suspension was caused by two or three financial reverses this year. My operating expenses from Jan. 1st to Sept. 1st was exactly one-fourth of what my patronage amounted to during the same period. The panic did effect my business some, but not enough to cause a suspension, although my books show that my debtors are due me \$3,509.06, and I owed at the time of my suspension a very small amount, which was amply secured, and none of my creditors will be any the worse off financially by my suspension. This part of my personal affairs I did not feel called upon to make public in my suspension notice, and would refrain from doing so now, except to explain to you and others who may have been misled by your article. I established The Breeze two and a half years ago, entirely on borrowed capital, not possessing a cent of my own, and could have continued its publication had I deemed it the best for myself and my future welfare.

Your statement that I did not credit with honesty those who disagreed with me in opinion is the worst injustice you did me. I have implicit confidence in many men who differ with me in their opinions and ideas. Some of the best friends I have in Florida are men who rarely agree with me politically. Some of the men I greatly admire are those who differ with me in expressed opinions. Yourself for instance. Only on two or three occasions have I ever agreed with Tom Appleyard politically, yet I regard him as one of my best friends. I greatly admire Frank Adams, a man who I have never agreed with, and I have a high regard for Gov. Broward, although I did not support him for Senator. I have often expressed my implicit faith in the integrity and honesty of Gilchrist, even if I did oppose him politically. This you know to be true.

You charge me with having viciously assailed Gilchrist during the recent primaries. If attacking his public record, is vicious I plead guilty to the charge. But, no one can point to one single instance where I attacked Gilchrist personally, or his private record. The nearest I came to it was the publication of the mortgage of his Waycross property to the A. C.

L. officials. I believe that Mr. Gilchrist will acknowledge the fairness of my opposition to him as a candidate. I proved by the records of the Legislature the charges I preferred against his public record.

You say that Claude L'Engle and myself were bitter enemies and yet we supported the same men for office and advocated the same policies. Claude and myself were not personal enemies, so far, as I know. We did not support the same men for office, nor did we often agree politically or otherwise. For instance, I supported Fletcher in the recent primaries and Claude supported Broward; I voted for Appleyard and Claude voted for Croom. It is true that we were both drainage advocates, but I was advocating drainage when Claude was opposing it. I was opposed to Claude's state insurance hobby, and regarded him as a very inconsistent man, but not as a personal enemy. I was the first newspaper man in Florida to make a vigorous fight for better railroad conditions in South Florida and L'Engle, as well as nearly every paper in the State, joined me in this fight. You, I believe, even opposed the publicity I was aiding to give the rotten condition of railroad affairs in South Florida, but afterward saw your mistake and willingly joined the fight. As a result of the publicity given the horrible condition of the C. H. Division of the A. C. L. at that time, you now have one of the best tracks in the State and fairly good train service. This newspaper publicity of the railroads indirectly caused the last Legislature to increase the powers of the Railroad Commission.

I thank you for your kind expressions contained in the aforementioned editorial, and I assure you that I appreciate them.

I may add that the rascality of some of our public servants contributed to my misfortune.

Assuring you of my highest esteem, I am

Very truly,
Sept. 27, '08. W. E. GRIFFIS.

Ocala Banner:—The shape of Florida is somewhat like that of a boot upside down, the foot part extending northwardly, and the leg pointing to the south. The foot part thus extends some 350 miles from east to west, along the parallel of 31 degrees north latitude, and from 80 to 88 degrees west longitude from Greenwich; while the part that would represent the leg or the peninsular proper, extends southwardly from 31 degrees to 25 degrees north latitude, thus reaching over 400 miles.

Gainesville Sun:—Editor Harris of the Ocala Banner, must be the most prosperous newspaper publisher in the State. Himself and family spent the summer in the mountains of North Carolina, and now they have gone to New York to complete their outing. First thing Col. Frank knows, some inquisitive "leper" of an editor, who spends more time "nosing" into other people's business than attending to his own, will be asking, "Where did you get it?"

The newspaper men of Jacksonville composing the Jacksonville Carnival Association will give a carnival in that city from October 26 to 31 inclusive. The carnivals given in former years have attracted great crowds and been good ones. The association promises to give the best carnival this year ever seen in the South. A number of European novelties are promised. Low rates will be given by the railroads.

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